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Chairman:	Mr. Effah-Apenteng	(Ghana)
later:	Mr. Ivashchenko (Vice-Chairman)	(Ukraine)
later:	Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Chairman)	(Ghana)
	Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle	

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 133: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Support Account (*continued*) (A/56/882, A/56/885 and A/56/941)

Entitlement of restitution (*continued*) (A/56/789 and A/56/887)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on write-off of contingent-owned equipment in liquidated missions (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/43)

1. **Mr. Soto** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, commended the Secretariat on its first-time use of results-based budgeting.

2. More than 200 new support account posts had been approved as a result of the process initiated by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations; it was now time to deliver. Although there had been significant improvements in the Secretariat's performance in a number of areas, there was still room for improvement.

3. While regretting its late issuance, the European Union supported most of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/941), particularly the recommendation on the establishment of a post of Director of Change Management in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which would bring about a much-needed overhaul and strengthening of the Department's management system and practices. Since disarmament, demobilization and reintegration were increasingly critical to the success of peacekeeping operations, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) must have the capacity to fully backstop and coordinate efforts in that area. The European Union fully supported the establishment of a P-4 post for that purpose.

4. Since the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women was not in a position to undertake additional responsibility for gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations, specialized gender expertise was clearly needed within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to mainstream the gender perspective into all its activities. It was disappointing that the Secretariat had again failed to properly describe the role and activities of the proposed senior gender adviser.

5. The European Union also recognized that the Secretariat should have adequate capacity to prepare and deliver guidance and support for public information. It noted in that connection that the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other parts of the Secretariat, was developing standard operating procedures for public information components in peacekeeping and other types of missions.

6. The number of support account posts should be directly correlated with the existing number of peacekeeping operations and the financing of permanent support account posts should be avoided for the near future.

7. **Mr. Duval** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the recent increase in the support account budget demonstrated the importance that Member States attached to ensuring an adequate support capacity for peacekeeping. However, certain key areas had yet to be addressed.

8. Canada, Australia and New Zealand were encouraged by the renewed commitment to establishing a post of Director of Change Management, which continued to be a priority. They also welcomed the resubmission of the request for the establishment of the posts of senior gender adviser and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programme officer, both of which were designed to make a substantive difference on the ground. It was regrettable, however, that, given the increasing need to address humanitarian issues in the field, the request for a humanitarian affairs officer had not been resubmitted.

9. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in favour of the Director of Change Management and DDR posts were most welcome. Canada, Australia and New Zealand noted, however, that the Committee had again recommended against the establishment of a dedicated capacity for addressing gender issues in peacekeeping operations, even though there was little doubt that Member States considered such capacity to be a priority. The importance of incorporating a gender

perspective into peacekeeping missions and — ensuring an appropriate backstopping capacity — had been stressed in numerous contexts, including Security Council resolutions. Women accounted for the vast majority of those affected by armed conflict, yet their marginalization in post-conflict resolution was all too common. The experience of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) had shown that a properly established gender capacity could have a dramatically positive effect. There was no capacity at Headquarters to learn from or to systemically apply lessons drawn from such experiences.

10. Current efforts to translate the political will of Member States into operational reality were not being realized. Instead, the issue was being passed from Committee to Committee, with little impact on the Organization's capacities. There was a need to approach the issue differently and to clarify the purpose and objectives of such capacity in relation to peacekeeping missions. Member States must provide the necessary resources for that initial conceptual work. Without minimal capacity, questions of policy direction could not be adequately addressed. The staffing of gender expertise was crucial in order to translate political support for gender mainstreaming into practical reality. Policy development was surely sufficiently urgent to warrant the approval of resources for such a capacity.

11. **Ms. Lalić-Smajević** (Yugoslavia), referring to the issue of entitlement to restitution, recalled that Yugoslavia had joined the United Nations on 1 November 2000. During the period for which instances of entitlement had been reviewed, Yugoslavia had thus not been a Member of the United Nations, nor had it signed a status-of-forces agreement or been a party to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The report of the Secretary-General (A/56/789) had failed, however, to take account of that fact or to make appropriate recommendations.

12. The Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia had received a note verbale dated 18 December 2000 from the Secretary-General requesting reimbursement for expenditures incurred for peacekeeping operations in the region. The Mission had requested clarification of whether the General Assembly's reaffirmation in resolution 51/12 A of 4 November 1996 that the costs of the combined Forces were expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States applied to Yugoslavia. As yet, no response had been received. The fact that Yugoslavia had not been a Member of the Organization at the time when the expenditures were incurred should be reflected in the decision to be taken by the Committee.

13. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) reiterated Norway's strong support for United Nations peacekeeping missions and welcomed the fact that the support account estimates had been presented using the results-based budgeting format. The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations should be taken into account in further refining the format.

14. Her delegation welcomed the emphasis on internal management reform within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and fully supported the establishment of a new post of Director of Change Management. The Department's capacity to backstop and coordinate the DDR Programme should also be strengthened.

15. In its resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council had recognized the urgent need to incorporate and mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations. The recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that there should be adequate back-up in the Secretariat had been endorsed by the General Assembly. It was thus most regrettable that the Advisory Committee had again failed to support the establishment of a new post of senior gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

16. The Secretariat should provide information on the status of its elaboration of a comprehensive policy on gender mainstreaming. Although the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement on Women had the mandate to provide advice and support and to monitor progress in each department, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was responsible for gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations. Those were complementary, but separate functions.

17. **Ms. Wang** Xinxia (China) welcomed the introduction of results-based budgeting, which had provided a clearer assessment of expected achievements. The process, however, should be further simplified. The new budget should also establish the necessary achievement indicators for training activities.

18. The Secretariat should clarify the current vacancy rate for the 91 posts that had been approved in December 2001 for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and account for any recruitment failures. It should also explain the need for 12 additional posts if the recruitment process had yet to be completed. Her delegation would also appreciate information on the geographical distribution of new recruits and on the extent to which the gender perspective had been mainstreamed into the recruitment process.

19. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations were an effective means of preserving international peace and security. Financing of those operations was a continuing cause for concern, which was why all Member States must pay their contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

20. Despite the reduction in the debt owed to troop- and equipment-contributing countries, payment delays persisted, which was a matter of particular concern for developing countries.

21. The use of results-based budgeting for the support account was particularly welcome. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendations in that connection, in particular its refusal to endorse the proposal to establish a post of senior gender adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

22. Regrettably, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) had not yet completed its report on appointments to peacekeeping operations, which would have helped to justify the proposed increase in personnel and resources for peacekeeping operations. The report would have also highlighted the continuing inadequacies in respect of geographical distribution and representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department. His delegation joined the representative of China in requesting additional information concerning all recruitment since December 2001 and recruitment for senior posts from troop-contributing countries.

23. The progress report on the write-off of contingent-owned equipment at liquidated missions (A/C.5/56/43) contained positive indications regarding compliance with the 30 June 2002 deadline by which claims should be completed. His delegation had been concerned to note the request for an extension of the deadline and would appreciate further clarification on that point

24. **Ms. Thomas** (Jamaica) said that her delegation supported the measures that had been proposed by the Secretary-General to respond more effectively to peacekeeping challenges. It also welcomed the shift towards results-based budgeting for the support account and hoped that the new approach would achieve the desired objectives and that the Advisory Committee's constructive criticisms would be taken into account.

25. The scale of current peacekeeping operations demanded a high level of backstopping from Headquarters to ensure that operations were effectively coordinated and she therefore welcomed the proposed increase in the Secretariat's support capacity. To that end, her delegation supported the proposed staffing structure outlined in the Secretary-General's report. The increase in posts should, however, be tied to more effective overall management of peacekeeping operations.

26. Her delegation was puzzled as to why the Advisory Committee had again failed to recommended acceptance of the proposal for the creation of the post of senior gender adviser. Jamaica continued to support the creation of such a post, in view of the need for adequate backup for gender advisers in the field. The role of senior gender adviser was critical to ensuring that the gender perspective was mainstreamed into all aspects of the Department's mandate, including the formulation of peacekeeping mandates. The post should, moreover, be at an appropriately senior level so that the appointee could work closely with the Under-Secretary-General.

27. She fully concurred with the comments made by the representative of Canada regarding the need for adequate resources and a coordinated strategy for gender mainstreaming within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

28. Her delegation was encouraged by the increased expenditure committed to training and supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning the need for a monitoring system to evaluate results and to make training more mission-specific.

29. Public information played a pivotal role in the implementation of mission mandates and she hoped that the Committee would take a decision on staffing levels in the Department of Public Information during the main part of the Assembly's fifty-seventh session.

30. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had no problem with the results-based budgeting approach, but felt that it should be further strengthened. The precise and objective criteria set out in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly must be scrupulously observed. His delegation agreed with the position of the Advisory Committee, as stated in paragraph 19 of its report (A/56/941), that an increase in workload should not automatically lead to additional posts. In the first instance, the increase should be accommodated through increased productivity and efficiency.

31. His delegation would like more information on the training provided to peacekeeping personnel, specifically, how it was conducted, who was responsible, who were the trainers, who provided the coordination and whether there was cooperation between certain countries and the trainers.

32. The posts requested for the Department of Public Information should be considered in the Committee on Information, bearing in mind the need for equality among the official languages.

33. His delegation agreed with the observations of the representative of India regarding the inflation of resources under the support account compared with the regular budget. The $3 billion budget for the support account, which far exceeded the regular budget, had sometimes been adopted within a matter of hours, while months were spent debating the regular budget. Peacekeeping operations should receive support, but a new approach to the budget process was needed.

34. **Mr. Farid** (Saudi Arabia) commended the Secretariat for presenting the estimates for support account resources using the results-based budgeting format. Given the increasing emphasis being placed on staff mobility, he wondered whether a staff member recruited against the support account would be rotated in accordance with the rules governing mobility or moved laterally to a regular budget post after five years.

35. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) said that peacekeeping operations should be given adequate resources. His delegation shared the views of the Advisory Committee regarding the support account. It welcomed the results-based budgeting format and hoped that improvements would continue. It regretted, however, that the Secretariat had not been able to complete work on the write-off of contingent-owned equipment at liquidated missions.

36. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that, in preparing future budget proposals, the Secretariat would take into account the views that had been expressed by members of the Committee and the comments of the Advisory Committee on the new format of results-based budgeting.

37. Most of the questions that had been asked were related to the issues of recruitment and vacancies. With regard to the 93 posts that had been approved based on the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi report) (A/55/305-S/2000/809), recruitment had been completed for all but four posts, for which it was necessary to await the results of competitive examinations. Of the 91 posts that had been recommended in the second Brahimi report, 73 had already been filled, 40 of them on a permanent and 33 on a temporary basis, the latter pending a review of the applicants. Over 9,000 applications had been received for the 91 approved posts, which was an indication of the level of interest in working for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. As to the question of why 12 more posts were needed if not all of the previously approved posts had been filled, the additional posts would bring the Department up to full operational readiness.

38. Gender was one of the criteria used in recruitment. The Secretariat would seek information on the overall policy on gender mainstreaming from the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women and he would revert to the issue at a later stage. He would also revert to the issue of training, about which a number of detailed questions had been asked, during the informal consultations.

39. On the subject of write-offs, all 36 of the Member States that had pending claims had been contacted, but 21 of them had not yet responded. As a result, the Secretariat now planned to complete its work in December instead of June.

40. The recent administrative instructions on the new personnel policy and recruitment procedures, including the mobility aspect, were not expected to have any material impact on any of the posts funded under the support account. Indeed, the movement of staff from one source of funding to another was quite common throughout the system. And, lastly, the resident

auditors were not funded from the support account but from individual peacekeeping missions. The formulas that had been agreed on for their employment had been largely applied to missions also and the particular circumstances of individual missions were taken into account. There was an outstanding issue with regard to resident auditors in the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), but the proposal for the establishment of resident auditors in those missions had been received well after the budget proposals had already been formulated and transmitted to the Advisory Committee. The matter would therefore be taken up again when the next round of peacekeeping budget proposals was being submitted. In the meantime, there were resources in each peacekeeping mission to provide for field visits by staff from Headquarters to carry out audits. That arrangement had been used in the past and had proven to be effective.

Agenda item 123: Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Proposals to implement General Assembly resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919)

Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/7/Add.9 and A/56/848)

41. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), recalled that, by its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly had decided to reduce resources by $75.2 million for the biennium 2002-2003 but had included no specific provision for interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, as specified in paragraph 18 of section II of resolution 56/242. In its resolution 56/242, the Assembly had approved the meeting calendar. The Secretariat had been assigned the task of implementing the resolution with significantly reduced servicing capacity.

42. The annex to the report showed that, even though resources had been stagnant, an increasing number of meetings had been accommodated through technological advances. The reduction realized in cost per meeting also indicated an increase in productivity. The number of meetings for the biennium would rise, partly because of an increase in meetings of the Security Council and of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which would make it more difficult to service all requested meetings. In addition, no measures had been taken to mitigate delays in the processing of verbatim and summary records. The number of meetings not programmed on the calendar for the biennium and which received services on an "as available" basis had also increased. For its part, the Office of Central Support Services, which also provided services to meetings, had experienced a 14.6 per cent reduction in its capacity. It would not be possible to restore services to their previous level without additional resources. Productivity could not be expected to rise, as the budget for information technology had also been cut by $10 million.

43. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848), he said that, following the events of 11 September 2001, the Secretary-General had taken a number of steps to strengthen the security and safety of the United Nations. The short-term measures already reported to the General Assembly had been largely implemented. The current report contained a set of proposals for the long-term strengthening of security and safety based on a comprehensive review of arrangements at Headquarters and other main locations, supplemented by findings of security assessment missions to the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the regional commissions. Security-related projects originally proposed for Headquarters in the capital master plan were now proposed for immediate implementation, as indicated in annex II to the report. Details of the requirements for the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi as well as of the regional commissions were also given. One-time costs were listed in annex I and in paragraphs 39 to 45. A total of 130 posts were being requested throughout the United Nations system, the details of which could be found in paragraph 45. There had also been a substantial increase amounting to $2.3 million in insurance premiums since the 11 September attacks. An additional appropriation of $57.7 million would be required as a supplementary appropriation for the biennium.

44. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), orally introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), said that the Secretary-General recommended in his report that the General Assembly should take note of the measures outlined in paragraphs 16 to 18 of the report. The report did not contain budgetary proposals for consideration by the Advisory Committee; it dealt with the implementation of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences, a subject that was also within the purview of the Committee on Conferences. In fact, as set out in section II, paragraph 18 of that resolution, the Secretary-General had been requested to submit to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences the implementation of the decision of the General Assembly to provide interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States.

45. Regarding the implementation of the budget that had been approved for the biennium 2002-2003 in the context of the demand for conference services and the capacity of the Secretariat to deliver those services, he wished to draw attention to the observations contained in paragraphs I.36 to I.54 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/7). Those paragraphs had been endorsed by the General Assembly subject to the contents of its resolution 56/253.

46. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/7/Add.9), he said that the Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's proposals, subject to its comments in paragraphs 1 to 17, and recommended the appropriation of $57,785,300 to be used strictly for the purposes authorized. He drew attention to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report.

47. **Mr. Pulido** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached particular importance to resolutions 56/254 D, 26/242 and 56/253, in which the Assembly called for adequate conference services to be provided to bodies, committees and regional groupings. The Group of 77 and China had expected the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/919) to address those concerns, to contain proposals for the comprehensive implementation of the resolution on pattern of conferences within the approved level of resources and to restore conference services for committees and major grouping, in particular the Group of 77 and China.

48. However, the situation continued to deteriorate and the Group was being prevented from making its contribution to the work of the Organization. That was unacceptable, given the Organization's international and multilateral nature and the equal rights of its Member States. The cutbacks in services had led to difficulty in completing the work programme of a number of bodies, to the postponement of meetings, the holding of meetings without the minimum required services, and to the cancellation of a number of meetings of the Group of 77 and China.

49. The report failed to provide any alternatives or to identify the amount of resources required to allow for flexibility in obtaining conference services in exceptional circumstances outside normal meeting hours. At the same time, however, the reports on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises and on provision of conference services to the Security Council Committees concerning counter-terrorism and Afghanistan, had proposed alternative solutions in the context of General Assembly resolution 41/213 that allowed for absorption of the workload using existing capacity, commitment authority or additional appropriation. Similar creative approaches should be applied to the issue of cutbacks in services.

50. The Group attached particular importance to the provision of conference services to meetings of regional groupings and expected that the treatment of additional activities being considered in connection with the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be dealt with in an integrated, balanced and non-discriminatory manner, in keeping with the procedures and practices laid down in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

51. The Group reiterated its demand that all measures which adversely affected the work of the Main Committees, other bodies and regional groups, in particular the Group of 77 and China, should be withdrawn, since their work was vital to the effectiveness of the Organization.

52. **Ms. Incera** (Costa Rica) said that the tragic events of 11 September 2001 had demonstrated the vulnerability of public and private institutions in New

York. Given the Organization's symbolic importance, its visibility in the world's media and the location of its Headquarters by a river and alongside major transportation routes, the United Nations was not only an attractive but also an easy target for terrorists. She therefore welcomed the review undertaken of security and safety arrangements at the United Nations and supported the implementation of the measures proposed in paragraph 11 of document A/56/848 and the allocation of the additional resources requested for that purpose. The 56 new posts requested for the security force and security-related functions, represented a minimum, given the Organization's vulnerability. She trusted that, in filling those posts, the Secretariat would give due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. It was also important to provide serving security officers with appropriate incentives, including adequate opportunities for promotion. Lastly, she noted with concern the level of resources required for the canine explosive-detection team, the services of which were obtained on a contractual basis. It would be more cost-effective for the Organization to establish its own canine unit.

53. *Mr. Ivashchenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

54. **Ms. Wang** Xinxia (China) said that her delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), she said that her delegation had always believed that the budget should provide sufficient resources for the delivery of mandated programmes and activities and that the ongoing reforms and economy measures, which it supported, should not undermine the effectiveness of the United Nations or the interests of its Members. All the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session should be fully respected and the resolutions on the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and pattern of conferences should be implemented in a balanced manner.

55. The significance of the $75 million reduction in the level of resources available to the Organization should not be overstated. In recent bienniums, the General Assembly, had never accepted in full the level of resources proposed by the Secretary-General. She noted that, while the reduction had been approved by all Member States, there had been differences of opinion during the negotiations on what the appropriate amount should be and that delegations had not been properly informed of the consequences of the reduction that had been agreed on.

56. The limiting of conference services in March 2002 had tarnished the Organization's reputation without producing the desired savings, a situation for which Member States could not be blamed. In the case of the Fifth Committee, had brief extensions for its meetings been granted towards the end of the first part of the resumed fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, it would not have been necessary to extend that part of the session. There was a need for Member States to work together to address the impact of the cuts. In the meantime, timely and reasonable adjustments must be made in the light of actual circumstances so as to ensure the smooth running of the work of the United Nations.

57. The tragic events of 11 September 2001 had demonstrated the need to strengthen the security and safety of United Nations premises. Her delegation had no objection to the appropriation of $27,952,000 for the one-time costs associated with the alteration and improvement of the Headquarters building and its infrastructure systems. It noted, however, that there was a need to avoid overlapping with the security improvements envisaged in the capital master plan. She asked whether the review of security and safety arrangements at the United Nations would be made available to delegations and what measures were being taken by the host country, which bore a special responsibility for the organization's security. She also wished to know whether the 56 new posts proposed for the security force and security-related functions would be international or local posts and what measures were being taken to alleviate the problems with vehicular access to the Headquarters building, particularly the unacceptable delays experienced by delegations. Lastly, she emphasized that, while Members States were ready to provide the necessary resources for security improvements, the services provided must be of high quality.

58. *Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Ghana) resumed the Chair.*

59. **Ms. Buchanan** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, welcomed the review that had been undertaken of security and safety

arrangements at the United Nations. The development of a coordinated, centrally managed system to ensure the physical security and integrity of the United Nations presented a challenge, given the Organization's geographical spread and the diversity of working environments. The Secretariat was therefore to be commended for the speed with which it had undertaken the review and prepared its results. The proposals contained in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/56/848) were practical and focused, balancing short-term and long-term needs and encompassing both systemic and physical measures to minimize security risks. She welcomed, in particular, the comprehensive nature of the security blueprint, which included both regional commissions and United Nations funds and programmes. While the cost of the package was a large sum, that expenditure was justified. Also, a significant portion of the expenditure related to one-time costs. She noted that discussions on a cost-sharing formula for security costs in Vienna had yet to be completed and urged the executive heads of the organizations located at the Vienna International Centre to give the matter due priority. Lastly, she endorsed the recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/56/7/Add.9).

60. **Mr. Kennedy** (United States of America) expressed regret at the failure of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919) to set priorities among mandates and programmes, as requested by the General Assembly, and at the Secretariat's audacious claim that there were no more efficiency gains to be found in the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. As was well known, the Secretary-General was conducting a thorough review of the Secretariat, the Organization's mandates and programmes, and the intergovernmental process, the outcome of which was to be presented to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. He had no doubt that the Secretary-General would propose efficiencies and improvements in the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and other departments. He noted with concern that, while that Department had been requested to submit quarterly spending reports in the light of its overexpenditure in the biennium 2000-2001, the first such report, which would cover the period from 1 January to 31 March 2002, had yet to be submitted. His delegation could not support the Department's request for additional resources, given that its budget had been approved only five months earlier. Such requests should be dealt with in the context of the Committee's consideration of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003. In the meantime, the Secretariat must develop creative solutions.

61. His delegation welcomed the timely report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848). It was a core responsibility of all Member States to provide United Nations staff with a safe and secure working environment, in which they could focus on programme delivery. The Secretary-General's proposals were appropriately comprehensive, addressing the requirements of United Nations premises around the world. He welcomed, in particular, the plans to develop a global United Nations standard identification system, a measure that was long overdue. His delegation intended to raise specific questions in informal consultations. However, it wished to express its support for the proposals and urge other delegations to do likewise.

62. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919), he expressed regret that the related report of the Advisory Committee had been presented by the Chairman of that Committee in the form of an oral statement and that the text of his statement had not been translated into all the official languages. He trusted that that situation would be rectified.

63. In its resolution 56/254 D, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to present proposals for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 within the resources specified in resolutions 56/254 A, B and C. Regrettably, the report before the Committee did not contain any such proposals. Instead, it sought to justify the inadequacies and shortcomings of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services. The report also violated the principle of the equality of General Assembly resolutions by giving priority to budgeting at the expense of the implementation of mandated programmes and activities. The Organization's priorities were set out in the medium-term plan and the

programme budget merely reaffirmed those priorities. The Department's plea that it lacked the necessary resources to implement resolution 56/242 was not convincing, and, since the Secretariat had not yet informed delegations of the distribution among departments of the reduction in the overall level of the budget, it was difficult to judge whether the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services had been treated equitably. His delegation had sought to avoid the cuts but had come under tremendous pressure from other delegations to endorse them and to target the above-mentioned Department and the Department of Public Information.

64. In the light of the tragic events of 11 September 2001, the strengthening of the security and safety of United Nations premises had become a matter of urgency. As stated in General Assembly resolution 55/232, activities that could compromise the safety and security of delegations, staff and visitors should not be outsourced. He trusted that, should the Assembly decide to approve the $57.8 million that had been requested for security improvements, the Organization would no longer have to rely on outside assistance. He noted, in that connection, that the services of the canine explosive-detection team were currently obtained on a contractual basis and expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would explore all possible alternatives to the current arrangement. Lastly, he asked what type of security training was envisaged and whether it would be provided internally, by Member States, or by outside contractors.

65. **Ms. Wahab** (Indonesia) said that the requirement in paragraph 6 of resolution 56/242 that meetings of Charter and mandated bodies must be serviced in full as a priority had not been fulfilled. The non-availability of conference and support services, for example, had hampered the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Sustainable Development and prevented it from discharging its mandate. The Secretariat should have shown some flexibility in that instance. On the question of the security of United Nations premises, her delegation would work closely with other delegations to seek the resources needed for that important area.

66. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) noted that, despite the stated interest of the group of Member States whose work was affected, neither the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 56/242 nor the related report of the Advisory Committee contained any proposals for a solution to the problem. She noted further that, while alternative solutions involving additional appropriations had been proposed within the framework of the report on security and the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, those practical solutions had not been proposed for conference services. That differentiated treatment was a matter of concern to delegations. At the very least, resources should have been identified in exceptional circumstances when it was important to complete a particular meeting rather than postponing items on its agenda to a later stage, which was a burden to delegations.

67. On the question of security, adequate financing should be made available for the safety and security of the Organization's premises. Nevertheless, she would welcome an explanation of how the additional amount of $56 million would be provided. Bearing in mind the cutbacks, she wondered also whether any savings measures were contemplated for the first budget year or whether the additional resources would be provided by Member States.

68. **Ms. Chebomui** (Kenya) said that, given the increased level of risk, the measures taken to enhance the security of United Nations premises were very timely. Her delegation, however, disagreed with the strong language used in the Secretary-General's report, which described the situation in Nairobi as unstable. Kenya was one of the most secure countries in the region, which was why it had become a haven for refugees, especially from the region of the Great Lakes. That very influx of refugees, however, and the proliferation of small arms and other weapons had created increased security challenges, in response to which the Government had strengthened security in Nairobi and its environs. It was not true that demonstrations were common in Nairobi, and when they took place they posed no danger to the United Nations Office, which was some 20 miles from the city centre. She reserved the right to return to the subject at a later stage.

69. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that his delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to upgrade the Organization's security infrastructure. On the question of the implementation of Assembly resolution 56/242, his delegation had supported the cuts in the budget for conference services the previous December. He was of the view, however, that the

Secretariat had simplified the task for itself and had placed the entire burden of the cuts on Member States while leaving intact the posts and salaries of Secretariat staff. Fairer and more justifiable ways of trimming expenses must be sought rather than subjecting delegates to a lack of heat, water and air conditioning.

70. **Mr. Tootoonchian** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said it was not clear to him which proposals for implementation of specific provisions of resolution 56/242 were being referred to in the first paragraph of the Secretary-General's report. He could find no proposals anywhere in the document.

71. **Mr. Niwa** (Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services), responding to the questions and comments of delegations, said that he had taken note of the observations made by the representative of Costa Rica on the hiring and promotion of staff. On the question of bomb detection services, he had taken note of the Advisory Committee's recommendations to explore all alternatives and would continue to do so; it should be made clear, however, that the Organization could not discharge that function by itself and must do so in cooperation with the host country.

72. Replying to the questions posed by the representative of China, he said that the study that was being conducted within the framework of the capital master plan had been somewhat delayed because of the complex nature of the task and the need to avoid cost overruns. He hoped that the documentation would be completed within a few weeks for submission to the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly. He would brief the Committee when the exercise was completed. Execution of many capital improvement works had been deferred to await the realization of the capital master plan. The amounts that had been brought forward would be deducted once the capital master plan was approved. Everything possible would be done to avoid duplication.

73. On the question of security and access to the garage, he confirmed that the 43rd Street entrance had been closed after the attack of 11 September, but had since been reopened to vehicular traffic. He also acknowledged that access to the compound from the "FDR" highway was outdated and that the security service had no choice but to inspect suspicious items at entrances to the compound. Security of the staff was the paramount concern and all concerned must be patient and bear with the Administration as the security infrastructure was upgraded.

74. Addressing the concerns that had been raised by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic with respect to the architectural integrity of the Headquarters buildings, he said that there were temporary and permanent aspects of the work to be done. In the execution of the permanent changes, every effort would be made to ensure harmony with the existing buildings. He would address the issue of training during the informal consultations.

75. **Mr. Hatbwachs** (Controller) took note of the dissatisfaction that many delegations had expressed with regard to the implementation of resolution 56/242. The Secretariat had been requested to implement the provisions of that resolution within the resources that had been specified in the budget resolution. The report before the Committee showed that, as the Secretariat had earlier indicated, full implementation was impossible following the budget cuts. With regard to specific measures that might be taken, further proposals could be formulated. In the meantime, services for regional and other major groupings would be provided on an "as-available" basis, in accordance with established practice. He wished to reiterate that proposals would be considered within the context of the next programme budget to mitigate the delay in the issuance of summary and verbatim records.

76. Responding to the questions posed by delegations, he said that paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report of the Secretary-General contained specific proposals for the implementation of resolution 56/242. On the issue of differentiated treatment for conference services, no additional resources had been proposed for the provision of conference services because the Secretariat had been mandated to provide them within existing resources. The mission in Afghanistan and the Counter-Terrorism Committee were newly mandated and required resources, which had not been provided for in the budget resolution. He did not see any possibility of savings at the current time as the dollar had weakened considerably and the Administration was precluded from creating artificial vacancies in order to fund activities.

77. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he had received no answer to his question about security training. He had sought information about the training procedures for security officials, who the trainers were

and which countries provided training services. On the question of helping the host country to look for explosives and other materials, he wished to know what mechanism was in place to cover the Organization's needs for inspection and whether results-based budgeting would be applied to the measures to enhance safety and security. As for the implementation of resolution 56/242, there should be no preference or priority between the various resolutions of the Assembly and implementation should not be conditioned on other matters. All resolutions adopted should be automatically implemented.

78. **Mr. Niwa** (Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services), replying to the concerns raised by the delegation of Syria, said that he would respond in detail to the question about security training during the informal consultations and bilaterally. By way of general comment, there were four types of training for safety and security personnel: a staff development programme organized by the Office of Human Resources Management; a security and safety training programme that provided training in such areas as the use of firearms, first aid, and incident command; training by outside experts in specific technical areas; and training by local law enforcement authorities in hazardous material response, driving and escorting dignitaries.

79. On the subject of capital improvements, a detailed study was under way and an amount of $35 million had been allocated for improvements, out of which $17 million would be brought forward. Issues of access to various locations and response to hazardous materials were all covered by the study.

80. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that the Secretariat did not discriminate between resolutions of the Assembly. The fact of the matter was that resolution 56/242 requested the Secretary-General to do a number of things, but resolution 56/254 took away the resources to discharge that mandate. The Secretary-General would be derelict in his duty if he ignored the level of resources that had been approved in the budget. Additional resources had been proposed for conference services, which would be offset by cuts in other sections.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/56/SR.58

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 58th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 22 May 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Effah-Apenteng ..... (Ghana)
later: Mr. Bhattarai (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Nepal)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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02-39492 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (A/56/890, A/56/922, A/56/932 and Corr.1, A/56/945 and A/56/947)

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (A/56/915 and A/56/949)

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/56/825 and Corr.1, A/56/887/Add.11, A/56/897, A/56/906 and A/56/938)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance report of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/56/922), said that expenditures for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 totalled $527.6 million gross, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $35.4 million gross, which was due mainly to reduced requirements under civilian personnel costs and operational requirements. Tables 1 and 2 gave details of the apportionment of expenditure by category and the authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel. The General Assembly was being requested to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance and of other income for the period.

2. Paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNTAET (A/56/890) set out the action to be taken by the General Assembly, which was to take note of the report on the final disposition of assets of UNTAET and to approve the donation of assets with a total inventory value of $8.1 million and a corresponding residual value of $5.3 million to the Government of East Timor, as detailed in annex IV to the report.

3. In his report contained in document A/56/932, the Secretary-General presented the proposed budget for the 12-month period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 for the operation of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). Of the total budget, some 42 per cent of resources related to military personnel costs. Civilian personnel costs accounted for 32 per cent of the budget and operational costs for 22 per cent. The General Assembly was being requested to approve the use for UNMISET of the special account established for UNTAET, to appropriate the amount of $318.4 million gross for the operation of UNMISET for the 12-month period, and to assess the amount of $318.4 million gross for the period, at a monthly rate of $26.5 million gross, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission. Details of the staffing requirements for the Mission were set out in section VIII.

4. The note by the Secretary-General on transitional financing arrangements for UNTAET and UNMISET for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 was contained in document A/56/947. Transitional financing arrangements would be required for the period from 21 May to 30 June 2002. Based on the current status of expenditure for UNTAET, expenditures for the period from 1 July 2001 to 20 May 2002 and for the transitional period until 30 June 2002 were estimated at $454.4 million and would thus fall within the amount appropriated for UNTAET for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. The General Assembly was being requested to decide that the expenditure for the period from 21 May to 30 June 2002 would be met from the amount of $455 million appropriated for UNTAET for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and to apportion among Member States the amount of $80.1 million.

5. The final performance report of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM) was presented in document A/56/915. The report contained information on reimbursement to troop-contributing Governments, expenditure, cash position, outstanding liabilities and unpaid assessed contributions. The General Assembly was being requested to decide to retain an amount of $19.6 million gross and net from the balance of appropriations to meet the cost of outstanding Government claims and to decide to temporarily suspend the provisions of financial regulations 4.3, 4.4 and 5.2 (d) in respect of the remaining surplus of $21.3 gross, in the light of the continuing cash shortage of the mission.

6. The financial performance report of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/56/825 and Corr.1) showed that expenditures for the period totalled $246.5 million gross, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $26.6 gross, which was due to lower costs for military personnel, transport operations, air operations, communications, equipment and freight. Tables 2 and 3

showed the apportionment and expenditure and the authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel. The General Assembly was being requested to decide to appropriate commitment authority of $41 million gross, to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance and of other income for the period, and to decide that the special arrangements regarding article IV of the financial regulations of the United Nations be applied to MONUC.

7. The proposed budget for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/56/897) amounted to $603.9 million gross, of which some 16 per cent related to civilian personnel costs. Operational costs accounted for 50 per cent of the budget and military personnel costs reflected 32 per cent. Table 2 provided a breakdown of the financial resources required by category of expenditure. The estimates represented a 34.2 per cent increase in total resources in relation to the apportionment for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and were based on a strength of 6,387 military personnel, including 810 observers. The number of civilian police had also been increased to 100. Tables 5 and 6 set out the changes in staffing requirements and proposed staff changes by office. The Assembly was being requested to appropriate the amount of $603.9 million gross for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and to assess the same amount at a monthly rate of $50.3 million gross, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

8. *Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

9. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's related report on the financial performance report of UNTAET and the proposed budget of UNMISET (A/56/945), said that the Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the disposition of assets of UNTAET and transitional arrangements. The Advisory Committee had made a number of comments on the proposed budget for the new Mission and on the performance report of UNTAET. In particular, it had cautioned against the tendency to obligate funds without an adequate analysis of the need for such obligations. It also appeared to the Advisory Committee that the processing of liquidations for UNTAET was taking an unduly long time, indicating a need to improve the process of reviewing and paying claims.

10. On the question of overexpenditure and underexpenditure, the Advisory Committee had highlighted some items where better planning and budget preparation would have improved the situation. The treatment of staff costs in both the performance report (A/56/922) and the proposed budget (A/56/932) should also be reviewed to ensure that the procedures followed conformed to United Nations practice. On the whole, however, the Advisory Committee recognized the difficult circumstances under which the budget for UNMISET had been prepared and commended the Secretariat and UNTAET for the efforts they had made to formulate an implementation plan and an exit strategy.

11. Taking into account its comments and observations, the Advisory Committee recommended the appropriation and assessment of an amount of $292 million gross for the operation of UNMISET for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, subject to a decision of the Security Council regarding the mandate of the Mission. The recommended amount reflected a reduction of 8 per cent in the amount that had been proposed by the Secretary-General.

12. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the final performance report of UNOSOM (A/56/949), he said that the Committee recommended acceptance of the proposals contained in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/915).

13. Turning to the report of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report and proposed budget of MONUC (A/56/887/Add.11), overall, the Advisory Committee had welcomed the steps that had been taken by the Secretariat to implement the Committee's previous recommendations. The Committee hoped that those recommendations that had not yet been implemented would be reported on in the next submission by the Secretary-General. The Committee's comments on the subject of military personnel were contained in paragraphs 24 to 31 of its report. In view of those comments, the Committee recommended that the estimate of $191.1 million for military personnel costs be reduced by 2 per cent to $187.3 million. It recommended further that the estimate of $86.5 million for international and local staff be reduced by 4 per cent, to $83 million and that

the amount of $155 million be approved for air operations for the Mission, representing a reduction of 9 per cent from the proposals of the Secretary-General. In summary, it was recommending appropriation and assessment of an amount of $581.9 million for the maintenance of MONUC for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, reflecting a reduction of 4 per cent from the estimates that had been proposed by the Secretary-General.

14. **Ms. Stern** (Director of the Internal Audit Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the audit of a contract for the provision of airfield services in MONUC (A/56/906), said that the review of the contract showed that the objective of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to meet the urgent operational requirements of MONUC had not been achieved. Inadequate consultations between the Department and MONUC had led to a lack of clarity as to the scope of services and the modalities for contracting them. Those issues should have been clarified before the bidding process began.

15. The audit had also highlighted the risk of making outsourcing decisions without first determining their cost-effectiveness. The review had also found a number of errors in the technical evaluation conducted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which might have led to the selection of a more expensive contractor. The Department had indicated that, after reassessing the various options that were available, it was preparing to rebid the contract for airfield services in order to ensure that the services obtained were cost-effective.

16. Upon completion of the audit, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) had made eight recommendations, whose implementation it would continue to monitor. In most cases, the Department had already indicated the corrective actions it was prepared to take.

17. **Mr. Soto** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, and, in addition Iceland and Liechtenstein, said that the United Nations should congratulate itself on the unprecedented success of UNTAET. There was a job to finish, however, and the European Union affirmed its support for UNMISET and concurred with the Secretary-General's budget proposals and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee thereon.

18. **Mr. Fox** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that it was only two and a half years before that UNTAET had begun the complex task of building capacities among the East Timorese people to facilitate their transition to independence. The fact that so much had been achieved in such a short period was a credit to the Organization and to the international community.

19. While much had been achieved, much still remained to be done. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should approve the appropriation and assessment of a budget of $292 million gross for the first 12 months of the new Mission, on the basis of assurances from the Secretariat that implementation of its mandate would not be adversely affected by the proposed 30 per cent reduction in the budget for the final year of UNTAET. The Advisory Committee's suggestion that the Mission should move quickly to document the lessons learned in the prosecution of serious crimes and in gender and public information matters should be taken up.

20. **Ms. Wahab** (Indonesia) said that East Timor's journey to sovereign statehood was inseparable from the successful conclusion of the mandate of UNTAET. Her Government would continue to work towards forward-looking relations with East Timor, on a basis of cooperation and amity and for the mutual benefit of their peoples. Accordingly, Indonesia supported the newly established United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor.

21. Concerning the financial performance of UNTAET for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, her delegation had taken note of the unencumbered balance of $35 million and of the practice of overexpenditure. It believed that the Advisory Committee's recommendation calling for better planning and improved efficiency should be given due consideration and that the Secretariat should adopt efficiency measures for all such missions.

22. Regarding the budget of UNMISET for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, her delegation was of the view that the Advisory Committee's recommendation of resources in the amount of $292 million gross would be a good basis for further consideration.

23. Lastly, the unnecessary reference to "militia elements" in the report of the Secretary-General conveyed an inaccurate impression which did not correspond to prevailing realities. In taking note of paragraph 11 of the proposed budget, her delegation therefore wished to underscore the need for objective assessment in the future. The long-term objective of the new Mission should be to empower the East Timorese people to make an effective contribution to the operation of their institutions and, ultimately, to the establishment of a peaceful, unified and sustainable society.

24. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) reiterated his delegation's commitment to the peacekeeping missions in East Timor and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With regard to the latter Mission, however, his delegation shared the Advisory Committee's concern expressed in paragraph 13 of its report (A/56/887/Add.11) over the Mission's cash-flow difficulties. It should be pointed out, however, that the budget cycle of many States did not coincide with that of United Nations peacekeeping operations and that, as a result, some Members experienced difficulties in paying their contributions. Member States should nevertheless be encouraged to make contributions, rather than discouraged.

25. **Ms. Maquinaldo** (Philippines) said that her Government had supported the establishment of UNTAET and also supported UNMISET. The East Timorese people would require the support of the international community in building their new nation. Her delegation also supported the recommendations aimed at achieving efficiencies in UNMISET.

26. **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana) said that his delegation attached great importance to peacekeeping efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and would do everything possible to ensure that MONUC was provided with the necessary funding on a predictable basis. It was particularly interested in the inter-Congolese dialogue and supported the efforts of the neutral facilitator to ensure the effective implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

27. He recalled that, at the first part of the Assembly's resumed session, his delegation had expressed its views on the allegations of irregularities and errors in the award of contracts for the provision of air services to MONUC. While it was necessary to respond to the operational requirements of field missions, adequate consultation among all stakeholders entrusted with outsourcing and procurement must also be ensured to safeguard full compliance with the relevant policies and procedures of the United Nations. His delegation reaffirmed the continued validity of the outsourcing and procurement criteria and guidelines. Noting that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had decided to re-bid the air services contract, he inquired whether the process had begun and what measures would be taken to ensure that the provision of air services was not disrupted. His delegation still firmly believed that the Secretariat should give serious consideration to the option suggested by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 99 of its report on the proposed budget of MONUC (A/56/845).

28. The Advisory Committee had acknowledged that expenditures on operational activities for peacekeeping operations had been growing rapidly and that air operations had become a major component of that category of expenditure. Yet the criteria used to determine arrangements for the procurement of air services were not always clearly stated in reports. In the light of the lessons learned at MONUC, OIOS, the Advisory Committee and the Board of Auditors should further coordinate their efforts to eliminate ambiguity, strengthen due process and increase the technical capacity of the units that conducted technical surveys before the contracts were awarded. Lastly, his delegation would like to hear from the Secretariat whether the implementation of recommendations 1, 4 and 5 in the report of OIOS (A/56/906) posed any serious difficulties.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/56/SR.59

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 59th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 23 May 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Bhattarai (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Nepal)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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Agenda item 123: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

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02-39782 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Ghana), Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 123: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (A/56/7/Add.10; A/C.5/56/25/Add.4)

United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (A/C.5/56/25/Add.5)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (A/C.5/56/25/Add.4) and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP) (A/C.5/56/25/Add.5). The Security Council had endorsed the establishment of UNAMA in its resolution 1401 (2002) of 28 March 2002. All the existing United Nations elements in Afghanistan were to be integrated into the Mission, which would be headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan. The Mission's mandate would entail fulfilling the tasks and responsibilities, including those relating to human rights, the rule of law and gender issues, entrusted to the United Nations in the Bonn Agreement; promoting national reconciliation and rapprochement throughout the country, through the good offices role of the Special Representative; and managing all United Nations humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction activities in Afghanistan, under the overall authority of the Special Representative and in coordination with the Interim Authority and successor administrations of Afghanistan. The proposed structure of the Mission would comprise the Office of the Special Representative; two "pillars", namely, pillar I, political affairs, and pillar II, relief, recovery and reconstruction, each headed by a Deputy Special Representative; and an administrative and logistical component. The Mission would be headquartered in Kabul, with regional offices based in seven other cities and liaison offices in Islamabad and Tehran. It would not have any uniformed personnel, with the exception of five military and four civilian police advisers. The total staffing proposed for the Mission was 615 posts. The staffing distribution by unit was set out in annex III to the report.

2. The total requirements for the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 amounted to $44.4 million net. Taking into account the resources already appropriated for the operations to be subsumed within UNAMA and the expenditures incurred in 2002 prior to 1 April, the net additional requirements of UNAMA amounted to $43 million. The Secretary-General proposed that the balance of $34.3 million remaining in the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 should be used for UNAMA and that an additional appropriation of $8.7 million should be approved under section 3, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213. In addition, an appropriation of $3.9 million would be required under section 32 (Staff assessment), offset by a corresponding amount in the estimates of income, under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

3. UNTOP had been established in June 2000 with the support of the Security Council, as expressed in its Presidential statement (S/PRST/2000/9), in response to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish an office for post-conflict peace-building in Tajikistan, and following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT). The operation of the Office had been extended in May 2001 for a further period of one year. In a letter dated 26 April 2002 (S/2002/501), the Secretary-General had informed the Council that, in view of the very positive role played by UNTOP, as well as the country's continuing need for support in its peace-building efforts, it was his intention to continue the activities of the Office for a further 12-month period, to the end of May 2003. In his reply of 1 May 2002 (S/2002/502), the President of the Council had informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council had taken note with appreciation of the information provided in his letter and of his intention to continue the activities of UNTOP for another year.

4. The resource requirements of UNTOP for the 12-month period from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003 were estimated at $2 million net. That amount would provide for salaries and other staff costs for 10 international

and 21 local staff, operational requirements, and other operating expenses. The Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly should approve for UNTOP, after taking into account the unencumbered balance of $221,900 under the existing appropriation, an amount of $1,855,700 under section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213. A further appropriation of $236,300 would be required under section 32 (Staff assessment), offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

5. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed resource requirements of UNAMA was contained in document A/56/7/Add.10. The Advisory Committee recommended in paragraph 34 of the report, that the General Assembly should approve a charge of $34.3 million for the Mission against the balance remaining in the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the current biennium, that provision would then be exhausted. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee further recommended that the Assembly should approve the additional appropriation of $8.7 million under section 3, as well as an additional appropriation of $3.9 million under section 32 (Staff assessment), to be offset by a corresponding amount in the estimates of income, under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). In paragraph 35, the Advisory Committee recommended that all the posts requested should be approved on a provisional basis and without prejudice to such recommendations as it might make on the basis of the information provided in the next budget submission for the Mission in Afghanistan. The reasons for that recommendation were described in the same paragraph.

6. The report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed resource requirements of UNTOP was contained in an oral statement, the text of which had been distributed to delegations. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve for UNTOP an additional appropriation of up to $2,092,000 gross under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the period from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003, on the understanding that such assessment as might be necessary would be considered by the Assembly in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the same procedure should be followed for UNAMA.

Conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/56/7/Add.11; A/C.5/56/42)

7. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/C.5/56/42), which contained revised estimates under sections 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference services) and 37 D (Office of Central Support Services) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The Counter-Terrorism Committee had been established on 28 September 2001, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The programme of work of the Committee had been endorsed by the Council on 23 October 2001. A small secretariat had been established in the Department of Political Affairs to provide substantive support for the Committee. The related expenditure had been authorized under General Assembly resolution 54/252 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures. The resources for the substantive servicing of the Committee for the biennium 2002-2003 had been requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/C.5/56/25), and the related provision had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/255 and 56/254 D.

8. In view of the lack of experience and information on the servicing requirements of the Committee, it had not been possible to estimate requirements in the biennium 2002-2003 for conferencing and central support services for the meetings of the Committee. Given the priority attached to the activities of the Committee, conference and other support services had been provided during the first quarter of 2002 by utilizing existing appropriations for 2002. However, in the light of the magnitude of the servicing required, it had become apparent that the current ad hoc servicing arrangement could not continue without a detrimental effect on other intergovernmental meetings

programmed in the calendar of conferences and meetings. Therefore, in order to provide services for the meetings of the Committee, as outlined in its work programme, and at the same time maintain the appropriate services for meetings of other bodies, an additional appropriation of $10.5 million was sought. The additional workload arising from servicing of the Committee was described in paragraphs 11 to 20 of the report.

9. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/56/7/Add.11), said that the Advisory Committee had noted that estimates had been prepared without the benefit of experience with respect to the servicing requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Because of the timing of the submission of the report of the Secretary-General and Fifth Committee meetings, the Advisory Committee had not had sufficient time to analyse the statistics provided in the report of the Secretary-General. Its preliminary impression, however, from both the report and the hearing, was that many of the statistical indicators might represent the worst-case scenario and that adequate experience by the end of the year should provide information on the future needs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. For that reason, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment of up to $7.5 million and that such additional appropriations as might be required should be dealt with in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

10. In paragraph 10 of its report, the Advisory Committee made some recommendations concerning the reports that had been submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). He read out the paragraph and said that "volume of the reports" should have been "volume of the communications". He did not understand why the Secretariat had amended the text without consulting the Advisory Committee, which had drafted the paragraph very carefully, and would request that a corrigendum be issued.

11. **Mr. Soto** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, and, in addition, Liechtenstein, said that the fight against global terrorism remained a top priority for the European Union, which fully endorsed the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on proposed measures to enhance the physical security of United Nations premises and to provide for the effective functioning of UNAMA.

12. The European Union supported the full and timely provision of all necessary conference and support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and believed that the differences between the estimates of the Secretary-General and those of the Advisory Committee stemmed from the fact that the preparation of the revised budget had been based on assumptions that could not be justified by previous or existing practice.

13. While the European Union remained committed to resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences and recognized the importance of the conference and support services provided to the organs and committees of the Organization and to regional groups, it believed that Member States should abide by budget resolutions and levels approved by the General Assembly immediately before the biennium to which they applied. While exceptions could be made for unforeseen and urgent activities, such as the enhancement of security at the United Nations or UNAMA, conference and support services did not seem to fall into that category.

14. The European Union had for many years advocated strict adherence to the mandated hours of conference servicing and supported the current practice of the Secretariat in that regard. Such discipline made for more focused meetings and more efficient allocation of resources, which, in turn, freed other resources to address the needs of the full membership of the Organization.

15. The European Union shared some of the concerns voiced by other delegations and regional groups with regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919). It, too, was disappointed that the report did not propose creative solutions to remaining problems or analyse possible efficiencies or further productivity improvements. It therefore believed that, rather than engage in debate on

the report, those matters should be considered later in the year when the Committee had the benefit of the outcomes of various revisions made under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General.

16. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that his delegation supported the activities of UNAMA and endorsed the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee. He asked how General Assembly resolutions 41/213, 42/411, 49/233 and 56/254 applied to the financing of the Mission.

17. **Mr. Tootoonchian** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the approval by the Advisory Committee of the proposed resource requirements of UNAMA was very encouraging. He trusted that the provision of the requested resources would enable the Mission to fulfil its mandate to rebuild Afghanistan. Reconstruction was a prerequisite for the re-establishment of an atmosphere of peace and security. Strong complementarity between the humanitarian and development activities of the Mission and its political activities would help to ensure stability in Afghanistan. There was also a need for concrete action to strengthen the central Government. Those objectives could be achieved only with intensive international cooperation.

18. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's concern at the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMA. The Secretariat was nevertheless to be commended for preparing a budget proposal for the Mission in such a short time. He had a number of questions regarding the administrative and budgetary arrangements for the Mission, the mechanism for coordination among participating agencies, the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the rental of premises for the liaison offices, the projected level of daily subsistence allowance, the provisions for the intensification of drug control activities and efforts towards voluntary repatriation of refugees, and the salaries of local staff, which he would raise in informal consultations.

19. **Ms. Buchanan** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that those delegations concurred with the request of the Advisory Committee for additional information on coordination in pillar II of UNAMA, and noted in that regard that the scale and scope of the Mission, the number of associated organizations located in Kabul and the need for close coordination favoured a common services approach. She joined the Advisory Committee in requesting further information on what circumstances would hinder co-location of staff, as well as on co-location and the application of common services in future proposals. In the context of the "light footprint" of the Mission and the delegations' commitment to the safety and security of Mission staff, she further inquired as to whether its security provisions as presently constituted would be adequate. Lastly, she expressed the delegations' acceptance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee and their readiness to support the approval of the budget of UNAMA from the funds for special political missions, with the residual amount to be funded from an additional appropriation.

20. With regard to conference and support services for the Counter-Terrorism Committee, while the delegations supported the work of that Committee, the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/56/42) had failed to provide the substantive information needed to support the request for additional resources in the amount of $10.5 million. She requested clarification of actual expenditure relative to the overall approved budget and noted that provision of that information in the form of a quarterly report would be useful. She looked forward to receiving the results of the comparative review of productivity standards in the Secretariat and agreed that a proactive approach should be adopted in addressing the "demand side" of the conference servicing equation.

21. More guidance and advice from the Advisory Committee on the format of reporting could be useful in addressing the sheer volume of documentation provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and thereby relieve some of the pressure on conference servicing. In that regard, the delegations supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Security Council should confirm that information initially supplied need not be repeated in subsequent reports. Lastly, she expressed the delegations' preference that the proposal for additional resources for the Counter-Terrorism Committee should be considered in the context of the first performance report. The delegations on whose behalf she spoke would support a request for additional funds if the need for them were clearly established at that time.

22. **Mr. Iossifov** (Russian Federation) said that, while the reports before the Committee and the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848), which

had been introduced at the Committee's 57th meeting, addressed diverse issues, all contained proposals for additional appropriations to a budget that had already been approved. The activities outlined in the reports were directly connected with the strengthening of the role of the United Nations as an indispensable tool for the maintenance of international peace and security and the mobilization of its unique resources to meet new challenges and counteract new threats, first and foremost, terrorism. While the additional appropriations sought were fully justified and related to expenditures that could not have been foreseen six months earlier, they must not be allowed to set a precedent, since increases in the level of the programme budget undermined Member States' ability to plan the levels of their contributions over the biennium. He noted, in that connection, that budget performance reports played a crucial role in determining actual levels of expenditure and forthcoming needs and urged the Secretariat to seek to achieve a balanced budget through prioritization and efficiency gains.

23. Following the events of 11 September 2001, the strengthening of the security and safety of United Nations premises had become a matter of urgency. His delegation therefore welcomed the proposals made by the Secretary-General in document A/56/848 and endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation in document A/56/7/Add.9 that the General Assembly should appropriate the amount of $57.8 million for the biennium 2002-2003 for the implementation of measures to that end, with the understanding that any additional assessment that might be required should be considered by the Assembly in the context of its review of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

24. With regard to UNAMA, his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations in document A/56/7/Add.10 concerning the arrangements for the financing of the Mission and concurred that there was a need for an in-depth examination of the staffing structure and grade levels of the Mission personnel. It also agreed that, in order to reduce expenditures, full utilization should be made of the assets, including vehicles and communication equipment, of missions that were being scaled down or closed.

25. Concerning the additional requirements for conference and support services for the Counter-Terrorism Committee, his delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee's observation in document A/56/7/Add.11 that there was a need for greater efficiency and economy in the servicing of the Committee. It also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments of up to $7.5 million related to the provision of conference and central support services to the Committee in 2002 and that such additional appropriations as might be necessary should be dealt with in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

26. The Russian Federation strongly supported Tajikistan's peace-building efforts. It recognized the need for a continuing United Nations presence in that country, following the withdrawal of UNMOT. His delegation therefore supported the proposal by the Secretary-General to continue the activities of UNTOP for a further 12-month period and the provision of the necessary resources.

27. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation did not doubt the importance of providing translation and interpretation services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and fully understood that the pattern of conferences for 2002-2003 had been established without taking into account the Counter-Terrorism Committee or the resources required to service it. There were major differences between the Secretary-General's and the Advisory Committee's views on the financing arrangements. The Secretary-General believed that financing should be in accordance with paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, while the Advisory Committee would require the Secretary-General to request authority in the context of the first performance report. His delegation would appreciate more information on the basis for the Advisory Committee's recommendation of $7.5 million and believed that the Committee should be informed of the programme budget implications of the Advisory Committee recommendations before any resolution on the matter was adopted. He also wondered whether there was any precedent for the General Assembly formulating the type of recommendation to the Security Council that was contained in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's report.

28. **Ms. Wahhab** (Indonesia) said that her delegation noted with concern the practice during the first quarter

of 2002 of utilizing existing appropriations for 2002 to provide conference and central support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for meetings that were not part of the calendar approved under General Assembly resolution 56/242 and which therefore had not been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The inability of other mandated bodies to complete their work during that period, owing to a lack of sufficient flexibility for holding meetings approved under that resolution, reflected unequal treatment of meetings of United Nations bodies in terms of conference and support services. She therefore joined other delegations in requesting further clarification from the Secretariat as to why such flexibility was provided for some meetings and not for others.

29. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that he shared the concern of other delegations at the differences between the Secretary-General's and the Advisory Committee's estimates for additional requirements and would appreciate more details in that regard, particularly statistics, which could be provided during informal consultations.

30. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) asked whether the proposal to approve a considerable number of high-level posts for UNAMA was consistent with General Assembly resolutions on human resources, which expressed concern at the inverted pyramid in the staffing table.

31. Referring to paragraph 4 of the report of the Advisory Committee on conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee (A/56/7/Add.11) she asked from which meetings of other intergovernmental organs resources had been taken in order to provide conference services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, an organ that was highly unpredictable, given that 13 of its 55 scheduled meetings had been cancelled. She would appreciate clarification of the Secretariat's thinking and of the criteria it had used in proposing additional resources for the Counter-Terrorism Committee when similar requests by the Group of 77 and China had been denied. Referring to the statement made by the representative of Spain on behalf of the European Union, she said that the priorities of all groups should be given equal treatment, not only those comprised of a few Member States. The Group of 77 and China had had urgent unforeseen requirements but had been unable to hold meetings for lack of resources, which had seriously hampered its work.

32. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, said that, in introducing the item, he had indicated that the estimates had been provided on the basis of limited experience in servicing the Counter-Terrorism Committee. For example, in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General, it was estimated that the Committee would hold four or five meetings per week and generate translation and processing of, on average, 700 pages of documentation per month. Those estimates were not borne out by the actual figures in paragraph 6 of that same report, which indicated that 62 meetings had been held between October 2001 and May 2002. A preliminary look at other figures as well had given the Advisory Committee the impression that some of the estimates were somewhat high. He believed that the request for resources to ensure the servicing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the remainder of 2002 would not have a negative impact on the requests of other intergovernmental bodies, although the Secretariat had not indicated to the Advisory Committee the extent of any negative impact thus far.

33. If the commitment authority of $7.5 million was not sufficient, he trusted that the Secretary-General would review the situation and communicate any problems to the Advisory Committee at its September meeting.

34. If the Syrian request concerning programme budget implications were carried to its ultimate conclusion, it would mean that programme budget implications would have to be provided for every recommendation the Advisory Committee made. It would even be necessary to provide programme budget implications for programme budget implications.

35. As for the Syrian question concerning a precedent for the recommendation, under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly, not the Security Council, was responsible for allocating resources and ensuring their efficient use.

36. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that at the time the Counter-Terrorism Committee was established, the Secretariat had had no way of realizing the eventual scope of the work entailed in its programme. It had thus been forced to use funds originally intended for

the servicing of future meetings to address the workload but could not continue that practice without adversely affecting the work of all other Committees of the General Assembly and Security Council. Unless additional resources were made available, it was clear that cutbacks in the level of conference and translation services provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee would be unavoidable. Restitution of meetings for regional groups at a normal level and on a continuous basis would cost from $12 million to $15 million per biennium.

37. There was no need for further statements of programme budget implications because, according to long-standing procedure, the sovereign decisions of the Fifth Committee on proposals submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General were made on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which already took all the relevant facts into account.

38. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation was fully satisfied with the assurances of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that that Committee was ready at any time to review further requests for resources to meet the needs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and with the recommendations contained in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's report.

39. It appeared that his delegation's position with regard to the need for statements of programme budget implications had been misunderstood. What he meant was that, as the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee sometimes differed, it was important to know the exact impact of decisions adopted and to dispel any ambiguities. In the future, it would be necessary to avoid situations where the Secretariat was unable to cover needs for lack of resources. In the case at hand, his delegation would like assurances that, if approved, the amount of $7.5 million would be sufficient.

40. Lastly, while he agreed in principle with the Advisory Committee's recommendation to reduce the cost of translation/revision through, inter alia, increased use of contractual arrangements, measures should be taken to ensure that the use of such services should not adversely affect the quality of the documentation for the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

41. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) said that, in light of the concerns raised in General Assembly resolution 56/242 regarding the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, her delegation wished to repeat its request for information regarding the specific sources of the funds used for the services provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, what meetings of other bodies had been cancelled or had not been serviced as a result, and on what basis the relevant decisions had been taken.

42. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that to date no specific meetings had been deprived of resources as a result of the shortfall; rather, the Secretariat had taken temporary assistance funds originally earmarked for meetings scheduled for the second half of 2002 and applied them to translating the documentation for the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

43. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) repeated his request for an assurance that the proposed amount of $7.5 million would indeed cover the costs of conference services to be provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

44. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that the original estimate had been $10 million, but in the light of uncertainty regarding the number of meetings still required, it was the view of the Advisory Committee that a commitment of $7.5 million should be sufficient, pending further examination in the performance report.

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/56/818, A/56/826 and A/56/946)

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (A/56/900 and A/56/948)

45. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance report of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/56/818), said that expenditures for the Mission during the reporting period had amounted to $46 million gross against an appropriation of $49.3 million gross, leaving an unencumbered balance of $3.3 million. That balance had resulted mainly from reduced requirements owing to the suspension of the activities of the Identification Commission and a lower level of deployment of civilian personnel than originally projected.

46. The proposed budget for MINURSO for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/56/826) amounted to $41.5 million gross. The Mission's staffing requirements were set out in section VIII of the report and the General Assembly was being requested to appropriate the amount of $41.5 million gross for the maintenance of the Mission and to assess that amount at the monthly rate of $3.5 million gross, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

47. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) (A/56/900), he said that of the $89.3 million in Mission assets, $29 million had been transferred to other missions or to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, $31 million had been disposed of in the Mission area, and $28.4 million had been reported as written-off/lost. Asset disposal had been carried out in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A, and the approval of the General Assembly was being requested for the donation of assets with a total inventory value of $235,800 and a residual value of $81,700 to various United Nations agencies and non-governmental bodies, as detailed in annex IV to the report.

48. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on financing of MINURSO (A/56/946), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the unencumbered balance of $3.3 million gross and the $2.5 million in other income for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 should be credited to Member States in a manner to be decided by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee further recommended an appropriation of $41.5 million gross to be assessed at a monthly rate of $3.5 million gross should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of MINURSO beyond 31 July 2002.

49. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on financing of MONUA (A/56/948), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the requests contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/900).

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/56/SR.60

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Summary record of the 60th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 17 June 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Effah-Apenteng ..... (Ghana)
Chairmen of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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02-40723 (E)

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Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 am.

Agenda item 120: Financial reports and audited statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*)

(a) United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.64)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.64

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.64, which had been submitted on his behalf by the representative of Egypt.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.64 was adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.85)

Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.85

3. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft decision A/C.5/56/L.85, which was of a purely procedural nature.

4. *Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.85 was adopted.*

Agenda item 122: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Relationship between the treatment of perennial activities in the programme budget and the use of the contingency fund (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.63)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.63

5. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.63, which had been submitted by the representative of Ukraine and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.63 was adopted.*

Agenda item 123: Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, judges of the International Tribunal for Rwanda and ad litem of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.62)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.62

7. **Mr. Kandanga** (Namibia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.62.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.62 was adopted.*

Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.83)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.83

9. **Mr. Tilemans** (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.83.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.83 was adopted.*

Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.86)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.86

11. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.86, which had been submitted on his behalf by the representative of Sweden.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.86 was adopted*

Implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 56/242 (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.92)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.92

13. **Mr. Ho** (Singapore) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.92.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.92 was adopted.*

15. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that a number of requests were made of the Secretary-General in the draft resolution just adopted. In particular, he was requested, in paragraph 4 (c), to

delay the implementation of certain non-substantive activities within the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and the Department of Management. He trusted that the Secretary-General would be ready to report to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of that paragraph. He also looked forward to the submission of the proposals for reprogramming the activities of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and the Department of Management related to conference and support services, as requested in paragraph 4 (d).

Conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (continued) (A/C.5/56/L.93)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.93

16. **Mr. Ivashchenko** (Ukraine), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.93.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.93 was adopted.*

18. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that, in the draft resolution just adopted, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure the provision of conference and support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, without adversely affecting other conference services, and to report to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-seventh session on the expenditures as well as programmatic impacts incurred in supporting the Counter-Terrorism Committee as a result of the draft resolution. It was anticipated that, in order to provide the services specified, additional expenditure over and above the existing appropriation would need to be incurred before the end of the calendar year. The Secretariat intended to encumber the necessary funds by utilizing the resources that had been earmarked for the servicing of meetings in the calendar year 2003. The draft resolution would thus be treated as de facto commitment authority. The additional expenditure incurred in 2002 in servicing the Counter-Terrorism Committee would be reflected in the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

Agenda item 133: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.76)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.76

19. **Mr. Chandra** (India) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.76.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.76 was adopted.*

Progress in the implementation of the field assets control system: a module of the field mission logistics system (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.77)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.77

21. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.77.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.77 was adopted.*

Instances for which the United Nations is entitled to restitution as the result of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.84)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.84

23. **Mr. Orr** (Canada), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.84.

24. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.84 was adopted.*

The concept of strategic deployment stocks and its implementation (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.87)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.87

25. **Mr. Chandra** (India) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.87.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.87 was adopted.*

Support account for peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.91)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.91

27. **Mr. Orr** (Canada), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.91.

28. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.91 was adopted*

Support account for peacekeeping operations and financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/45)

29. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations and financing of the United Nations Logistics Base, Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/56/45), said that the amounts to be apportioned in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share of the support account and of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, were set out in the annex to the document.

30. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat in document A/C.5/56/45.

31. *It was so decided.*

32. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Committee, and the General Assembly, must approve the amounts set out in the annex to the document; the phrase "take note" implied neither approval, nor disapproval.

Write-off of contingent-owned equipment at liquidated missions (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.94)

Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.94

33. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft decision A/C.5/56/L.94.

34. *Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.94 was adopted.*

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.95)

Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.95

35. **Mr. Orr** (Canada), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft decision A/C.5/56/L.95.

36. *Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.95 was adopted.*

Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.72)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.72

37. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.72.

38. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.72 was adopted.*

39. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation attached great importance to enhancing the conditions of service of the local staff of the Force. He trusted that the Secretariat would implement the provisions of the draft resolution, particularly paragraph 10, without delay.

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.70)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.70

40. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.70, which had been submitted by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution had been introduced at the Committee's fifty-sixth meeting.

41. **Mr. Wittmann** (United States of America) expressed regret that it had not been possible to achieve a consensus on the text of the draft resolution. While his delegation strongly supported the Force, it objected to the use of a funding resolution to pursue claims against a Member State. The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 3, 4 and 13 contained language that violated the principle of collective responsibility for the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, which was unacceptable to his delegation. It therefore wished to request a recorded vote in one block on those paragraphs.

42. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote in one block was taken on the fourth preambular paragraph and on paragraphs 3, 4 and 13 of the draft resolution.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam,

Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

43. *The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.70 were adopted by 74 votes to 2, with 36 abstentions.*

44. **Mr. Wittmann** (United States of America) said that, for the reasons cited previously, his delegation was not in a position to support the draft resolution and requested that a recorded vote should be taken on the draft text as a whole.

45. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as a whole.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

46. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.70 as a whole was adopted by 110 votes to 2.*

47. **Mr. Pulido** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China in explanation of vote, expressed support for the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and hoped that the draft resolution just adopted would be implemented.

48. **Mr. Soto** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey and, in addition, Liechtenstein, recalled that its position on the costs of the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996 was that the resulting costs were specific in nature and that voluntary contributions to offset them would be welcome. Costs should be kept within budget and the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations should remain a collective responsibility. The European Union had abstained from the vote on preambular paragraph 4 and paragraphs 3, 4 and 13 of the draft resolution, as it had considered those paragraphs inappropriate in a draft resolution on the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects had

been discussed in the General Assembly and the European Union had expressed its position clearly at that time. It would have preferred the discussions in the Fifth Committee to be limited to the financial and budgetary aspects of the question.

49. **Mr. Fox** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that those delegations were pleased that the adoption of the draft resolution provided for the necessary continuation of the financing of UNIFIL, but were concerned that the paragraphs voted separately contained political elements inappropriate for a financing resolution. They had therefore abstained in that vote. The paragraphs in question undermined longstanding budgetary principles on the financing of peacekeeping operations based on collective responsibility. Fewer than 15 per cent of Member States had met their financial obligations to UNIFIL and Member States were therefore urged to pay their assessed contributions without delay.

50. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole because of the responsibility of Member States to ensure the financing of peacekeeping operations. It regretted, however, that it had not been possible to reach consensus.

51. **Mr. Diab** (Lebanon) said that his delegation thanked those Member States which had voted in favour of the resolution and for the specific paragraphs calling on Israel to pay compensation to Lebanon for the damage incurred in the incident at Qana, in particular the destruction of the United Nations compound. That aggression had been carried out deliberately by an occupying force. Israel must bear the consequences of its actions; it was unacceptable for the United Nations to bear the cost for such an incident. He also expressed thanks to UNIFIL for its efforts to protect Lebanese civilians.

52. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan) said that, had his delegation been present, it would have voted in favour of the block of paragraphs and the draft resolution as a whole.

Agenda item 135: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.65)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.65

53. **Ms. Wahab** (Indonesia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.65 on behalf of the Chairman.

54. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.65 was adopted.*

Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.78)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.78

55. **Mr. Kendall** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.78.

56. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.78 was adopted.*

Agenda item 137: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.66)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.66

57. **Mr. Kendall** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.66.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.66 was adopted.*

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.80)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.80

59. **Mr. Peixoto** (Brazil) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.80.

60. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.80 was adopted.*

Agenda item 139: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.67)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.67

61. **Mr. Bouheddou** (Algeria) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.67.

62. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.67 was adopted.*

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.68)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.68

63. **Mr. Wins** (Uruguay), Rapporteur, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.68.

64. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.68 was adopted.*

65. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan), speaking in explanation of position, said that the draft resolution just adopted had included a paragraph expressing appreciation to those Member States which had paid their assessed contributions "on time". His delegation was of the view, however, that, instead of discouraging them, the General Assembly should encourage Member States to make their contributions, regardless of the timing. It had joined the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that it did not devalue any contribution because of its timing.

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.81)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.81

66. **Ms. Aguinaldo** (Philippines) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.81.

67. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.81 was adopted.*

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.88)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.88

68. **Mr. Fox** (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.88.

69. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.88 was adopted.*

Agenda item 146: Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.89)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.89

70. **Mr. Fox** (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.89.

71. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.89 was adopted.*

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.79)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.79

72. **Mr. Fox** (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.79.

73. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.79 was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.69)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.69

74. **Ms. Baranska** (Poland) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.69.

75. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.69 was adopted.*

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.71)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.71

76. **Ms. Baranska** (Poland) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.71.

77. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.71 was adopted.*

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.74)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.74

78. **Mr. Tilemans** (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.74.

79. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.74 was adopted.*

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.73)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.73

80. **Mr. Fox** (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.73.

81. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.73 was adopted.*

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.90)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.90

82. **Mr. Fox** (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.90.

83. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.90 was adopted.*

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.75)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.75

84. **Mr. Tilemans** (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.75.

85. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.75 was adopted.*

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.82)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.82

86. **Mr. Wins** (Uruguay), Rapporteur, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.82.

87. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.82 was adopted.*

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly

88. *The Chairman declared closed the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.*

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/56/SR.61

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 61st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 17 July 2002, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Ghana)

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02-48805 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Election of the Chairman for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly

1. **The Chairman** recalled that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/509 of 8 July 2002, a number of changes had been made to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and that rule 99 now called for all the Main Committees to elect a Chairman at least three months before the opening of the session. However, paragraph 3 of that resolution made specific provision for the fifty-seventh session, for which the Chairmen of the Main Committees were to be elected as early as possible.

2. Mr. Sharma (Nepal) had been nominated for election to the office of Chairman for the fifty-seventh session. In the absence of further nominations and in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Sharma (Nepal) Chairman.

3. *Mr. Sharma (Nepal) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.